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NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

BOWLING RETURNS TO CAMPUS OF EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

CHARLESTON – League bowling is no longer a thing of the past in the city of Charleston.

For that matter, bowling of any kind is back in full swing.

"We're glad to be back open and hope our students and staff, as well as the general public, will use the renovated facility," said Tim Taflinger, manager of Eastern Illinois University's Bowling Lanes and Rec Area. "Any and all are welcome."

The bowling alley, located on the first floor of the University Union (west side), officially opened two weeks ago; the grand opening – complete with a ribbon-cutting ceremony – will take place Friday, Feb. 1. By that time, Taflinger said, the majority of the renovation work will be complete, including the laying of carpet in the reception area.

The facility closed more than a year ago (December 2000) in order to allow work crews freedom to tear out the ceiling and do the tasks needed to construct the university's new Food Court, located immediately above the bowling alley. That facility, too, officially is scheduled to open on Friday.

As work on the Food Court began to wind down, crews began renovating the 12 bowling

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

lanes, including the installation of new pin spotters and automatic scoring machines.

A newer, more colorful decor was installed at the end of the lanes, and the university purchased bowling balls to match. These two items, as well as the new carpet with its glow-in-the-dark bowling pins and bowling balls design, will lay the groundwork for "Cosmic," or a sort of moonlight, bowling.

According to Taflinger, facility plans call for more upgrades in the future, including installation of a sound system and lighting system possessing black light capabilities. "Cosmic" bowling in all its splendor, he added, hopefully will be available by Fall 2002.

Currently, he continued, EIU's Bowling Lanes remains open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to midnight on Friday, noon to midnight on Saturday and from 1 to 11 p.m. on Sunday. Games are \$1.75 for EIU students and \$2.25 for all others. Shoe rental is \$1.

A "Manager's Special," available between 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, allows bowlers three games and shoe rental for \$4.50 (EIU students) and \$5.50 (all others).

Taflinger added that due to classes taking place this semester, the lanes will be closed to the public between 10 a.m. and noon and 1 and 3 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, and between 10 and 11:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Open bowling also will be available on a first-come, first-served basis during league nights which currently fall on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Anyone -- individual or team -- interested in bowling in a league should contact Taflinger to see about availability.

He added that interested persons should note that neither smoking nor alcohol is allowed in the facility.

Taflinger also invites all interested persons to Friday's ribbon-cutting, scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Refreshments, drawings, give-aways and free game tokens are included in the list of fun activities one can look for, he added.